

Steering Committee Members Ward 6 NPA

Matt Grady

Mary Riley

Joel FitzGerald

Michelle Mraz

Lisa Thompson Courtesy Guest minutes

NPA Meeting October 2020

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81027856568>

(Meeting ID: 810 2785 6568)

Opening of meeting: 6:30pm

Sandy Yusen Champlain College introduced a presentation of Forget-Me-Not Vermont: Melodies of the Green Mountain State Featuring Champlain College's student acapella group, Purposeful Dissonance Produced by Travis Washington, Class of 2020.

The slide show was very captivating, factual and very enjoyable. The film was recorded at VPR and recently won the Freedom and Unity contest. It will be available later this month for those who wish to explore the film. Travis Washington thanked the NPA for allowing them to share the film. There was chat about predicting a film in 40 years as to what type of music would be in the film. Vermont music has seen many changes through out the years, whether it will be local or more derived by people's choice of playlists and Spotify.

Tiff Bluemle Vermont State Senate Representative

Tif has currently live in VT for 23 years. She moved back to Vermont with her partner as she felt connected and wanted her children to live in a community where having two Moms was going to be accepted. Previously a History Teacher for 6 years became an advocate for woman and young girls. Tiff served as executive director of Vermont Works for Women (VWW), a nonprofit organization helping women and girls to think about their lives in the broadest terms and to develop skills that are critical to long-term economic independence. VWW has worked with thousands of women and girls, it's budget has increased significantly from 200k to over 1 Million dollars and has developed youth initiatives and job training programs for incarcerated women that have been replicated or recognized in national publications.

Her focus is engaging the people of Vermont in conversations. Addressing the wages for essential workers. Engaging the community in the appropriate roles of Police and Prison. Addressing the economic setbacks to protect the states most vulnerable citizens. Hoping to offer the future children a better Vermont.

Public Question: What is your view on the Vermont population that are incarcerated in out of state prisons. Tiff: She does not agree with needing out of state facilities. COVID 19 has generated a lot of people to be released from being incarcerated due to minor violations. There needs to be more review of those cases and to find a solution to reduce the reliance of prison. There was talk of how the State Representatives can help with the local NPA's. There was a comment made of parking within Ward 6 and how resident parking has made the area very tight with other public parking.

Tom Licata Vermont State Senate Representative

Unfortunately, there was a connectivity issue and Tom was unable to present. Tom's website is <https://www.licata4house.com/> He will also be attending (along with Tiff and Gabrielle) the cctv general election forum on October 14th at 6pm, which you can read about at <https://www.cctv.org/news/tune-2020-general-election-forums>.

Gabrielle Stebbins State Senate Representative

Gabrielle currently lives in the South End of town with her husband and 2 daughters 3 and 10. She is currently a Senior Consultant at Energy Futures Group, where she assists residents communities and utilities in efficiently shifting to renewable energy. She is also the Chair of the Burlington Electric Commission. She is passionate about the long term economic, and climate impact renewable energy can be to people, businesses, farming and clean air energy.

One of her main concerns and focuses are quality of health and lack of elder care. Having two elder parents it is a close to home concern. COVID has brought critical need to the surface with livable wage, affordable education and childcare. Racial tensions and social injustices have increased to alarming levels during COVID as well. We need to work collaboratively as a community to come up with solutions. Vermonters need to transform themselves and their communities to build an economic strategy. We have the opportunity to create thousands of green jobs through renewable energies. Building a stronger better Vermont to pass on to the future children of this state.

City Council Update Karen Paul Joan Shannon

Karen Paul started by sharing that the "Everyone Loves a Parade!" mural at City Hall has been taken down. It is made out of individual slats and is being stored currently at the Airport. Artist Gina Carrea who originally did the rainforest mural underneath has been giving that mural a refresh and bringing it back to life. City Hall Park's dedication is on October 16th and is open to the public. The work was able to be finished ahead of time as City workers were able to work on the project directly.

Voting: Karen wanted to point out to those who were unaware that ranked choice voting is the same as instant run off voting. It is a type of voting that has not been needed in Vermont in a very long time. She also wanted to make those aware that the rules are different for each branch. IE: City Council will have a different set of rules than the school board will. It did not make it on the ballot for November it is also very costly.

Public Question: Is the City talking about reserving funds to assist the school with the recent closures at Burlington High School. Karen responded that State law does not allow money for assistance with Act 60.

Joan touched base of ranked choice voting in support of it and was disappointed that it was not on the November ballot. Joan touched base on the Charter Change Committee in the current Just Cause Eviction amendment. The committee is looking for amendments to better protect current tenant rights and looking for rental caps within the city. Some of the changes would be that landlords could no longer evict tenants for difficulties in dynamics, and prevent them from not renewing leases without a due process. The violations for terminations would only be allowed as follows: Violation of lease, violations of State Statutes and non-payment of rent. There is hope to get this on the March ballot, but it is also met with strong resistance from landlords feeling as though some are being targeted. And the fact that their rights are being taken away for owning a property in which they will have no control over and not allowed to rent at costs of their own discretion for the maintenance and upkeep of the building as well. The committee is due to meet again later this month.

Joan also shared that the Fire Chief is considering allowing winter COVID fires. With winter being as long as it is they are hoping that the community gatherings that happen outside it will give some people something to look forward to. More to come about that in the future.

Claire Wool **School Board Burlington School District**

Attempts to reach Claire were unsuccessful.

End of the meeting. 8:30pm

Minutes submitted by Lisa Thompson